

**NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX)**

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Tucson Field Office

NEPA Doc. # AZ-420-2005-016

Serial/Case File No. AZA-33043

Proposed Action Title/Type: MESA ARIZONA MOUNTAIN VIEW STAKE TREK,
SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT

Location of Proposed Action (include name of 7.5' topographic map): Public land administered by the BLM in the Tortilla Mountains-Ripsey Wash area, Pinal County, Arizona. Location is generally in T5S R13E Sections 25, 26, 22, 23, 15, and 17; T6S R13E Section 25 of the Gila and Salt River Principal Meridian. The Ninetysix Hills NE, and Crozier 7.5' USGS quadrangles cover the proposed use area. The location is shown on Map 1.

Description of Proposed Action: Authorize use of public lands administered by the BLM in connection with the hiking event planned by the Mesa Arizona Mountain View Stake on March 17 to March 19, 2005. The event is a hiking trek involving approximately 300 youth 14 to 18 years old, and approximately 100 adult leaders. Participants will arrive at the starting point by bus, and will be picked up at the exit point by bus. Access to the starting point is off SR79 via Freeman Road, and egress is via the Florence-Kelvin Road to SR79. The trek route is approximately 21 miles in length, with approx. 2 miles on private land, 12 miles on State Land, and 7 miles on BLM land. The route consists of existing resource access roads, typically with an 8 ft. wide travelway. The hikers along the trek route will pull wheeled handcarts. Several equestrians will accompany the group. The group will camp two nights on private land along the route (at Ripsey Ranch, and the Horse Ranch). The applicant has contacted and obtained permission of the landowners. Up to six motor vehicles (pick up trucks with trailers) will be used to carry the food and kitchen, potable water, emergency/first aid equipment, and portable toilets. Medical personnel will accompany the group. Cell phone and radio communications will be in place in case of emergency. The Mountain View Stake has held similar events in other venues in the past. The event is described in the Operating Plan submitted with the permit application. Use of BLM lands would be subject to the applicable Terms, Conditions and Stipulations in Attachment A.

Any litter/trash generated by the event will be packed out. All support motor vehicles used on the trek will stay on existing roadways and turn-outs.

No new surface disturbance or vegetation removal/clearing is needed. Route markers (flagging or signs) may be installed as needed at intersections to keep the participants on course, and will be removed during post-event clean up. Permission will be obtained separately for use of routes on State Trust land.

Applicant (if any): Cliff Barber, Mesa Arizona Mountain View Stake, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day-Saints; 3327 East Fountain St., Mesa, AZ 85213.

PART I: PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW. This proposed action is subject to the following land use plan: *PhoenixResource Management Plan*, approved September 1989. The proposed action has been reviewed and determined to be in conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM MS 1617.3).

/S/
Francisco J. Mendoza
Project Lead

February 14, 2005
Date

PROGRAM CONSULTATION & COORDINATION/CX CHECKLIST
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
TUCSON FIELD OFFICE

PART II: CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW

Turbo NEPA #: AZ-420-2005-016

ASSIGNMENT AND REVIEW

Subactivity: 1220
Case/Project No: AZA-33043

Project Name: MESA ARIZONA MOUNTAIN VIEW STAKE TREK, SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT
Location (legal description): T5S R13E Sections 25, 26, 22, 23, 15, and 17; T6S R13E Section 25 of the GR&SR PM, Pinal Co., AZ.
NLCS Unit: NA
Quad Name: Ninetysix Hills NE, and Crozier 7.5' USGS
Project Lead: F.J. Mendoza, ORP

Draft Review: Unit Manager/Supervisor: /S/ Steven Cohn Date: 02/14/05
Technical Review:

Exception Applies? Yes No	NAME	EXCEPTION	SIGNATURE	DATE
() (X)	Bill Auby	(1) Have Significant adverse effects on public health or safety?	/S/	02/17/05
() (X)	Francisco Mendoza	(2) Have adverse effects on such unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources, parks, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains or ecologically significant or critical areas including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks.	/S/	02/17/05
() (X)	Jack Whetstone	(3) Have highly controversial environmental effects.	/S/	02/17/05
() (X)	Bill Auby	(4) Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	/S/	02/17/05
() (X)	Dan Moore	(5) Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	/S/	02/17/05
() (X)	Francisco Mendoza	(6) Individually Insignificant, but cumulatively significant effects.	/S/	02/17/05
() (X)	Max Witkind	(7) Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.	/S/	02/17/05
() (X)	Jack Whetstone	(8) Have adverse effects on species listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated Critical Habitat for these species.	/S/	02/17/05
() (X)	Jack Whetstone	(9) Require compliance with EO 11988, 11990 (Protection of Wetlands) or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.	/S/	02/17/05
() (X)	Dan Moore	(10) Threaten to violate a Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	/S/	02/17/05

Approval:

Unit Manager/Supervisor: /S/

Date: 02/17/05

Environmental Coordinator: /S/

Date: 02/17/05

Field Manager: /S/

Date: 02/17/05

This proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 6, Appendix 5.4 **H.5** (*'Issuance of special recreation permits to individuals or organized groups for search and rescue training, orienteering or similar activities and for dog trials, endurance horse races or similar minor events.'*). It has been reviewed to determine if any of the exceptions described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

The action does not have significant adverse effects on: Public health and safety, Unique geographic characteristics as: Historic or cultural resources, Parks, recreation, or refuge lands, Wilderness areas, Wild or scenic rivers, Sole or principal drinking water aquifers, Prime farmlands, Wetlands, Floodplains, Ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks.

The action does not have highly controversial environmental effects nor have highly uncertain environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risk

The action does not adversely affect a species listed or proposed to be listed on the list of endangered or threatened species.

The action does not establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration with significant environmental effects or related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

The action does not adversely affect properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The action does not threaten to violate a Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment or which require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands) or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

Mitigation Measures/Stipulations:

The activity will be subject to the applicable Special Recreation Permit Terms, Conditions and Stipulations in Attachment A.

Part III: DECISION. I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed action does not conflict with major land-use-plans and will not have any major adverse impacts on other resources. Therefore, it does not represent an exception, and is categorically excluded from further environmental review. It is my decision to implement the project, as described, with the mitigation measures attached.

Authorized Official: /S/
Shela A. McFarlin, Field Manager

Date: 02/23/2005